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4. (Amended) The golf club shaft according to claim [3] 1, wherein the first fiber reinforced resinous layer and the second fiber reinforced resinous layer are bonded to form one prepreg sheet.

REMARKS

Presently claims 1 and 4-9 are pending in the above-identified application. Applicant has amended claim 1 by inserting the subject matter of claim 3 into it. Applicant has amended claim 4 to correct dependency. Applicant has not submitted any issue of new matter.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated Kawamatsu '573 (USP 5,421,573). Applicant submits that patentable distinctions exist between the cited prior art and the present invention.

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Present Invention

Applicant has directed the present invention to a golf club shaft having a plurality of fiber reinforced resinous layers that are layered one upon another in a winding state. More precisely, a first inclined fiber reinforced resinous layer that is oriented at an angle of α° with respect to an axis of the golf club shaft, wherein α° has a value of $0^\circ < \alpha < 90^\circ$, and a second inclined fiber reinforced resinous layer that is oriented at an angle of $-\alpha^\circ$ with respect

thereto. The winding start position of the first inclined fiber reinforced resinous layer and the winding start position of the second inclined fiber reinforced resinous layer are spaced 180° in a circumferential direction of said golf club shaft, and the first inclined fiber reinforced resinous layer and the second inclined fiber reinforced resinous layer are wound by $N + 0.5$ unintegral turns, respectively, so as to apply an anisotropic property to the shaft, wherein N is an integer more than 1.

The golf club shaft of the present invention has the same bending stiffness in circumferential direction, when the shaft is bent in any direction, because the thickness at any position in its circumferential direction is the same.

Distinctions Between Present Invention and Kawamatsu '573

Kawamatsu '573 discloses a golf club shaft comprised of a first, a second, a third and a fourth sheet body that is made from reinforced fibers. These fibers are wound one over the other with the first sheet body the inner most winding, the second sheet body the second inner most winding, the third sheet body the third inner most winding and the fourth sheet body the outer most winding. In Figure 4 of Kawamatsu '573, the first and second sheet bodies, 6a and 6b, are wound by two (2) turns.

Kawamatsu '573 fails to disclose a golf ball shaft, wherein a first inclined fiber reinforced resinous layer that is oriented at an angle of α° with respect to an axis of the golf club shaft, wherein α° has a value of $0^\circ < \alpha < 90^\circ$, and a

second inclined fiber reinforced resinous layer that is oriented at an angle of α° with respect thereto. The winding start position of the first inclined fiber reinforced resinous layer and the winding start position of the second inclined fiber reinforced resinous layer are spaced 180° in a circumferential direction of said golf club shaft, and the first inclined fiber reinforced resinous layer and the second inclined fiber reinforced resinous layer are wound by $N + 0.5$ unintegral turns, respectively, so as to apply an anisotropic property to the shaft, wherein N is an integer more than 1.

Kawamatsu '573 is silent as to the layers of 6a and 6b being wound by unintegral turns of more than 1 in column 2, lines 39-48. A skilled artisan only would understand that 6a and 6b are wound two times as disclosed in Figure 4.

In addition, Kawamatsu '573 discloses that the number of wound prepreg is different along the axis of shaft between the grip and the head. See column 5, line 59 to column 6, line 25. Therefore, the shaft fails to have the same bending stiffness in circumferential direction, which results in the bending stiffness changing according to the swing direction. A shaft cannot have the anisotropic property in which a predetermined principal elastic direction thereof is different from the principal geometric axis, so the number of layers having inclined fiber reinforced are different in thickness direction and in axis direction.

The present invention, as discussed above, has an anisotropic property and the same bending stiffness in the circumferential direction.

The stated object of Kawamatsu '573 is to provide for a golf club shaft which allows the golfer to perceive the torsional degree (bending) thereof while swinging it. *See column 1, lines 54-58.* The present invention is designed to compensate for a golfers slice or hook, because the anisotropic property corrects the orientation of the club head.

Applicant asserts that Kawamatsu '573 fails to anticipate the present invention. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Since Kawamatsu '573 fails to disclose an element of the present invention, such as "unintegral $N + 0.5$ turns", Kawamatsu '573 fails to anticipate the present invention.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant submits for the reasons stated above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should be placed into condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the above matters, please contact Applicants' representative, Mark W. Milstead (Reg. No. 45,825), in the Washington, metropolitan area at the telephone number listed below.

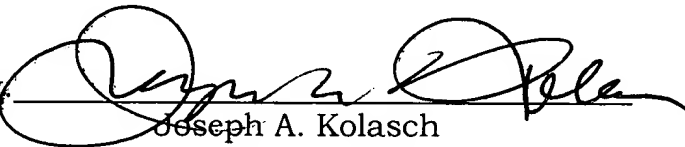
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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required extension fee of \$890.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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